could not be released to the State Govt. as the State has yet to prepare a Medium-Term Fiscal Reforms Programme.

As per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance for utilisation of local bodies grants, such grants shall be released to States that have completed the due election process in respect of local bodies. Further, in case of delay in holding local bodies elections, funds will be deducted proportionately. Since the elections to Panchayats in Gujarat had been held only in December, 2001, the State Government is not eligible for grants for Panchayati Raj Institutions for the year 2000-01.

Tribunals for tax evasion cases

†4299. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of cases involving a very large amount are in dispute for tax fixation, are lying pending for settlement in courts and tribunals;

(b) if so, the number of cases lying pending till December, 2001; and

(c) the total amount which has become disputable due to the said cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE. N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) In respect of central excise duty, 9029 cases were pending in the courts and in the Customs Excise & Gold Control Appellate Tribunal as on 31.12.2001, involving an amount of Rs. 5579.25 crore. A total of 6080 cases were pending in the courts in respect of customs duty as on 31.12.2001, involving an amount of Rs. 827 crore. In respect of income tax, 110100 cases were pending in the courts and in the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, as on 31.12.2001, involving an amount of Rs. 7460.65 crore.

Non-payment of proceeds from sale of shares

†4300. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints regarding non-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

payment of proceeds to the employees accrued by way of sale of shares at Calcutta Stock Exchange, which were allotted to it's employees by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time of receipt of such complaints by Government and the action taken thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Growth Rate of infrastructure sector

4301. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether signaling economic recovery, the six infrastructure industries have recorded a growth of 4.9 per cent during February, 2002 compared to a negative one per cent growth in the same month last year;

(b) if so, whether the cement industry posted a growth of 21.2 per cent in February 2002 as against a negative growth rate of 10.7 per cent in the same month last year;

(c) if so, the other sectors on which growth has been reported;

(d) the sectors where growth has declined; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to improve the growth in other sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir

(c) and (d) Growth rates of six Infrastructure Industries (electricity, coal, steel, crude oil, refinery products and cement) having a weight of 26.7 per cent in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), in the months of February 2002 and March 2002 (latest available data) compared with growth rates in the respective months of the previous years are indicated in the Statement (*See* below). It may be observed that there has been significant improvement in the growth rates of cement and coal while there has been a deceleration in the growth of steel, crude petroleum and petroleum products in the current year.

(e) The Government has taken following initiatives to improve performance of infrastructure sectors: